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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE #4

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June 27, 1972

Mr. Richard Helms, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Helms:

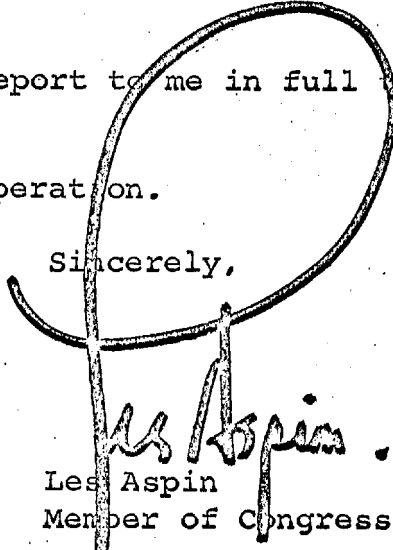
I am publicly releasing today substantial new evidence that indicates that U.S. pilots flying CIA-operated helicopters have been smuggling opium inside Laos. These allegations are contained in a letter and additional information that I have received from Mr. Alfred McCoy, author of a forthcoming book on heroin traffic in Southeast Asia. If these allegations are true, then the CIA is implicated in fostering the drug traffic that ruins the lives of tens of thousands of Americans.

I am writing to you today to request that you thoroughly investigate Mr. McCoy's allegations. Since Mr. McCoy obtained his information last summer, it is imperative to determine whether this kind of drug trafficking is still going on. A principal unanswered question which the CIA must resolve is: "At what level in the CIA were officials aware of this illicit drug traffic?".

I hope that you will report to me in full the results of your investigation.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
Les Aspin  
Member of Congress

DRAFT - JMM  
24 August 1972

The Honorable Les Aspin  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Mr. Aspin:

The investigation undertaken in response to your letter of June 27, 1972, has been completed. The results of this investigation confirm and thoroughly justify my continuing certainty that CIA is not now and never has been involved in illicit drug traffic in any way. Regarding the specific sources cited by Mr. McCoy in support of his allegations, it should be noted that our interviews with each of these individuals produced flat denials that such reports could have been attributed to them. (A classified report summarizing the results of our investigation is being filed with the Chairman of the Special Committee on Intelligence of the House Armed Services Committee.)

Your letter of June 27 also puts the direct question, "At what level in CIA were officials aware of this illicit drug traffic?" A categorical answer to this question is that our investigations and those of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs have revealed no credible evidence that U.S. pilots flying CIA-operated helicopters have been smuggling opium inside or from Laos and that on interrogation

the CIA personnel who would have knowledge of such traffic if it did exist deny knowing of any such illicit drug traffic. On the contrary, they state positively that it does not exist.

I am sure you will understand and agree that it is inappropriate for the CIA to be drawn into national debate over unsubstantiated allegations about this serious social problem. As you know, we are engaged in a cooperative effort with other agencies of the Government to stop the flow of drugs into the United States and to U.S. personnel overseas. You may be assured that we will continue to support this program to the best of our ability and within the proper scope of our responsibility.

Sincerely,

Richard Helms  
Director

H. PATRICK SWYGERT  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
TELEPHONE: 202-225-4365

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

MRS. VIRGINIA BELL  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

144 WEST 125TH STREET  
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August 1, 1972

Honorable Richard Helms  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

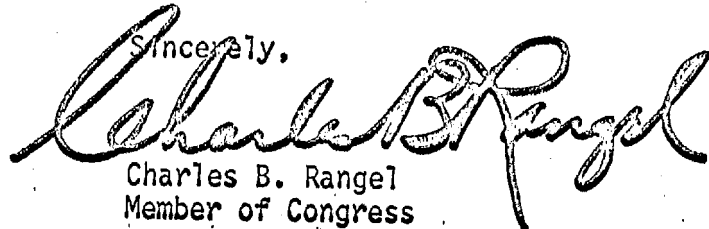
Dear Mr. Helms:

The Washington Post reported yesterday that "the headquarters for CIA-backed Laotian irregular forces" will be moved to Vang Vieng, "a town on Route 13 85 miles north of Vientiane and 34 miles southwest of Long Cheng Valley." The article mentions that the new location will be the headquarters for General Vang Po's "guerilla force."

I would appreciate your informing me as to what steps are being taken by the Central Intelligence Agency to guarantee that the new base at Vang Vieng will in no way be involved in opium and heroin trafficking and to see that General Vang Po discontinues his involvement in Southeast Asian drug production, processing and smuggling. I would further like to know how the CIA plans to monitor aircraft and ground vehicles entering the new headquarters and leaving it to see that no such vehicles provided, subsidized, funded or operated by any agency of the U.S. government is used to transport opium, its derivatives or any chemicals used in its processing and packaging.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

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DRAFT - JMM  
24 August 1972

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Mr. Rangel:

This is in reply to your letter of 1 August 1972 referring to a story in the Washington Post of 31 July and raising certain questions regarding the illicit drug traffic in Southeast Asia.

We are aware of certain allegations that have circulated in the public media to the effect that this Agency has somehow been involved in the drug traffic. I wish categorically to assure you that all such allegations which have come to our attention have been carefully investigated and found to be completely groundless.

I should like further to assure you that this Agency is employing every feasible means to make sure that neither its personnel, its activities, nor its installations become in any way involved in the illicit drug traffic.

I trust these assurances will allay your concern regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Helms  
Director